

Bass Guide Service for all of their achievements. The recognition by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in wishing the National Bass Guide Service future success.

TRIBUTE TO THE 144TH MILITARY
POLICE COMPANY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Congressman DAVE CAMP and I rise today to honor the service of the men and women of the 144th Military Police Company from Owosso, MI, who spent the past year defending the Pentagon.

The 144th has a proud history of service in time of need. In 1990–91, the unit was activated and sent to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, where it operated a holding camp for Iraqi prisoners of war. Numerous members of the unit have volunteered to serve at Michigan airports, border crossings, the Bioport facility in Lansing.

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the effort of these soldiers has kept safe the command center for America's fighting men and women, and the heart of our national defense operations. These soldiers have sacrificed much for their country, putting their lives on hold to serve America.

Today, as our Nation engages in a war on terrorism, these men and women are role models for their fellow citizens as they stand in defense of our nation and the free world. Their devotion and commitment to their country and to the state of Michigan have earned them great respect.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in extending our gratitude to the fine men and women of the 144th Military Police Company. We are honored to recognize their service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED
STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE
HERITAGE ACT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act, legislation to celebrate one of the most inspiring periods in America's maritime history. This legislation would establish a comprehensive program to inventory, evaluate, document, and assist efforts to restore and preserve surviving historic lifesaving stations. I am pleased that my Jersey Shore colleague Representative FRANK LOBIONDO has joined me in this effort.

The history of lifesaving in the United States dates back to 1785, when the Massachusetts Humane Society began building huts along the Massachusetts coast to aid shipwreck victims. These huts were later fitted with surfboats, beach-carts, and other lifesaving equipment. Beginning in 1847, the Federal government

recognized the importance and necessity of lifesaving efforts when Congress provided a series of appropriations to establish lifesaving stations equipped to render assistance to shipwrecked mariners and their passengers. These stations were first established along the Atlantic coast with the assistance of Representative William Newell, who during the 31st and 39th Congresses represented some of the same areas of New Jersey that I represent today. Representative Newell's efforts contributed to the establishment of a network of lifesaving stations along the Jersey Shore from Sandy Hook to Cape May. In 1871, Congress approved the first appropriation for the Federal government to employ crews of lifesavers. On June 18, 1878, the "Act to Organize the Life-Saving Service" was enacted. In 1915 the Life-Saving Service merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to form the Coast Guard. At that time, there were over 275 lifesaving stations to aid shipwreck victims on the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf, and Great Lakes coasts.

The volunteer and professional lifesaving personnel who staffed these stations risked their lives to prevent shipwreck casualties. Winslow Homer immortalized these great heroes of the American coast in his painting *The Life Line*. Walt Whitman celebrated their inspiring actions in the following excerpt of his poem *Patrolling Barnegat*:

Through cutting swirl and spray watchful
and firm advancing,

(That in the distance! Is that a wreck? Is the
red signal flaring?)

Slush and sand of the beach tireless till day-
light wending,

Steadily, slowly, through hoarse roar never
remitting,

Along the midnight edge by those milk-
white combs careering,

A group of dim, weird forms, struggling, the
night confronting,

That savage trinity warily watching.

An outstanding example of this period survives today in my district. The historic Monmouth Beach lifesaving station, established in 1895, is a Duluth style station designed by the architect George Tolman. On one occasion, every member of the station's crew was awarded a gold lifesaving medal for rescuing victims of two shipwrecks on the same evening. This historic structure had been slated for demolition to make way for a new parking lot for beachgoers. Fortunately, the entire community came together to save this important structure but work still needs to be done to preserve the station's history and the inspiring stories of those who served there.

It is not certain exactly how many stations like the one in Monmouth Beach remain. Many surviving historic lifesaving stations are of rare architectural significance, but harsh coastal environments threaten them, rapid economic development in the coastal zone, neglect, and lack of resources for their preservation. The heroic actions of America's lifesavers deserve greater recognition, and their contributions to America's maritime and architectural history should be celebrated.

That is why I have proposed the United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act. This legislation would provide the resources necessary to inventory, document, and evaluate surviving lifesaving stations. It would also provide grant funding to assist efforts to protect and preserve these maritime treasures.

The United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act would authorize the National Park

Service, through its National Maritime Initiative, to inventory, document, and evaluate surviving historic lifesaving stations. These activities would be conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Life-Saving Service Heritage Association, a Massachusetts based nonprofit educational organization that works to protect and preserve America's lifesaving heritage. This inventory, documentation, and evaluation would be similar in nature to a study completed by the Park Service in 1994, on historic light-houses. Under this legislation, the Park Service would serve as a clearinghouse of information on lifesaving station preservation efforts, which would greatly assist public and private efforts to protect these historic structures and the maritime heritage that they embody.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to celebrate one of the most heroic and inspiring periods in America's maritime history.

HONORING THE RESPONSIBLE SO-
CIAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM
AT IOWA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite the attention of my colleagues to a remarkable program at Iowa Wesleyan College, a 161-year-old, Methodist-affiliated liberal arts college in Mr. Pleasant, IA.

In conjunction with National Volunteer Month, this week the college is celebrating the achievement of 1 million hours of service to society by its graduates through participation in its Responsible Social Involvement (RSI) program.

In the 35 years since its inception, RSI—with its requirement of a minimum of 160 hours of work with a nonprofit organization, as well as the keeping of a journal, the writing of an essay and the making of an oral presentation—has become a national paradigm for public service.

More than simply a requirement that must be met for graduation, participation in RSI has proven a life-transforming experience for thousands of Iowa Wesleyan students.

In 1739, John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church, confided to his journal that "I look upon the world as my parish." The young men and women Iowa Wesleyan sends from its campus through RSI discover a world in which too often the so-called "me-generation" succumbs to the temptation to decouple freedom from responsibility.

Today it is tempting to seek freedom by abjuring personal responsibility for addressing the needs of those less well off in our communities. This renunciation of individual accountability is too easily justified by the assumption that the role of meeting societal needs is exclusively that of impersonal bureaucracies. Participants in RSI come to understand that a moral society demands that individuals not duck responsibility for improving the lot of others, that personal fulfillment comes through action rooted, not in "I," but "we."

The Responsible Social Involvement program at Iowa Wesleyan appropriately epitomizes John Wesley's Rule:

Do all the good you can,